

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A chiral compound of the general formula I



and diastereomers thereof, where

R^1 and R^2 , independently of one another, are

$P-Y^1-A^1-Y^2-M-Y^3-(A^2)_m-Y^4$ groups,

where wherein

A^1 and A^2 are spacers having ~~from~~ one to 30 carbon atoms,

M is a mesogenic group,

Y^1 , Y^2 , Y^3 and Y^4 are, independently of one another, a single chemical bond, -O-, -S-,

-CO-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -CO-N(R)-, -(R)N-CO-, -O-CO-O-, -O-CO-N(R)-,
-(R)N-CO-O- or -(R)N-CO-N(R)-,

R is hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl,

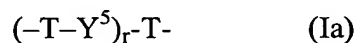
P is hydrogen, C_1 - C_{12} -alkyl, a group which is polymerizable or suitable for polymerization, or a radical which carries a group which is polymerizable or suitable for polymerization, and

m is a value of 0 or 1, and

where wherein the variables A^1 , A^2 , Y^1 , Y^2 , Y^3 , Y^4 , M , P and the index m , in the groups R^1 and R^2 , may be identical or different, with the proviso that, in the case

where the index m is 0, at least one of the variables Y^3 and Y^4 adjacent to A^2 is a chemical bond.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The A compound as claimed in claim 1, where
wherein the mesogenic group M conforms to the formula Ia



where wherein

T is a divalent saturated or unsaturated carbocyclic or heterocyclic radical,

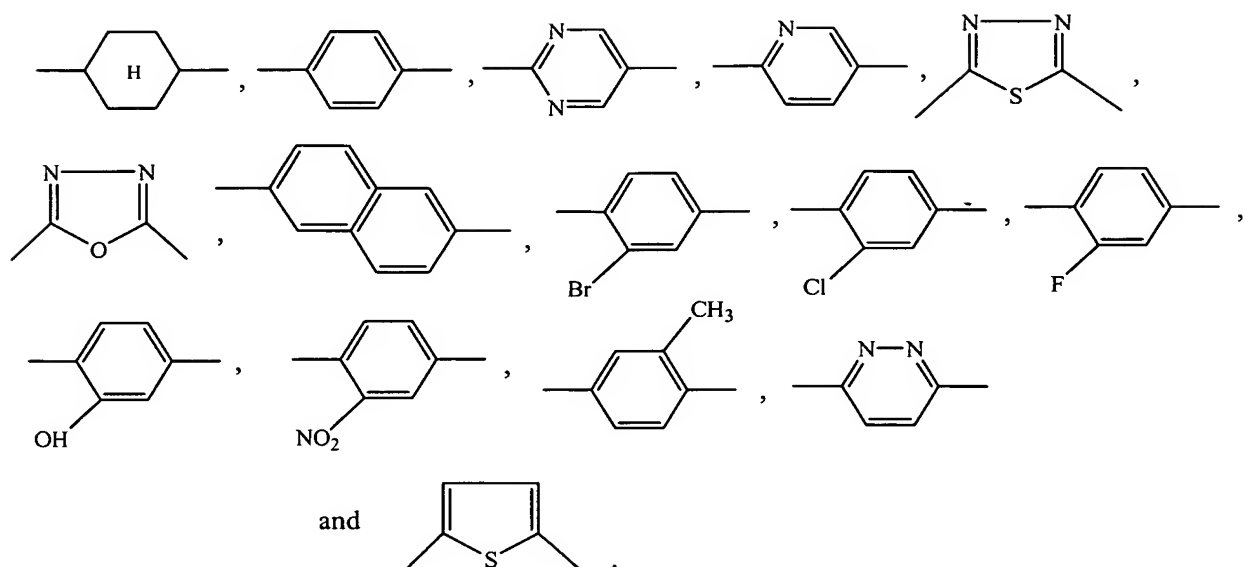
Y^5 is a single chemical bond, -O-, -S-, -CO-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -CO-N(R)-, -
-(R)N-CO-, -O-CO-O-, -O-CO-N(R)-, -(R)N-CO-O- or -(R)N-CO-N(R)-,

R is hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, and

r is a value of 0, 1, 2 or 3, where, for $r > 0$, both the variables T and the
variables Y^5 may, in each case, be identical to, or different from, one another.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The A compound as claimed in claim 2, where
wherein the index r in the mesogenic group of the formula Ia, in the group groups R^1 and the
index r in the mesogenic group of the formula Ia in group R^2 adopts, are, independently of
one another, ~~the value~~ 0 or 1.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The A compound as claimed in claim 2 or 3, wherein
where T is selected from the group consisting of:



Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The A compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~one or more of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein ~~where~~, in the groups R^1 and R^2 , m is, in each case, 0[[,]]; Y^3 is a single chemical bond[[,]]; and Y^4 corresponds to -O-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-O- or -(R)N-CO-O-[[,]]; and wherein ~~where~~ the variable ~~variables~~ Y^4 for group R^1 may be identical to, or different from, the variable Y^4 for group R^2 ~~one another~~.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A method of altering the optical properties of a liquid crystalline system, comprising contacting the ~~The use of a~~ compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~one or more of claims 1 to 5~~, as chiral dopant, ~~for~~ with one or more liquid-crystalline systems.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A liquid-crystalline composition, comprising at least one chiral compound of the general formula I, as claimed in claim 1, ~~one or more of claims 1 to 5~~ and one or more liquid crystalline materials.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A polymerizable liquid-crystalline composition, comprising at least one chiral compound of the general formula I, as claimed in claim 1, one or more of claims 1 to 5 and one or more polymerizable liquid crystalline materials.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A method for preparing an optical component, comprising forming said optical component from the composition of claim 7 ~~The use of a composition as claimed in claim 7 or 8 for the production of optical components.~~

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An optical component ~~which has been produced from the~~ using a composition as claimed in claim 7 ~~or 8.~~

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A method of printing or coating a substrate, comprising applying the composition of claim 8 to a substrate ~~The use of a composition as claimed in claim 8 for printing or coating substrates.~~

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A printed or coated substrate ~~which has been produced from the~~ using a composition as claimed in claim 8.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method of preparing a dispersion or emulsion, comprising contacting the composition of claim 8 with one or more solvents ~~The use of a composition as claimed in claim 8 for the preparation of dispersions and emulsions.~~

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A dispersion or emulsion ~~which has been prepared from the~~ using a composition as claimed in claim 8.

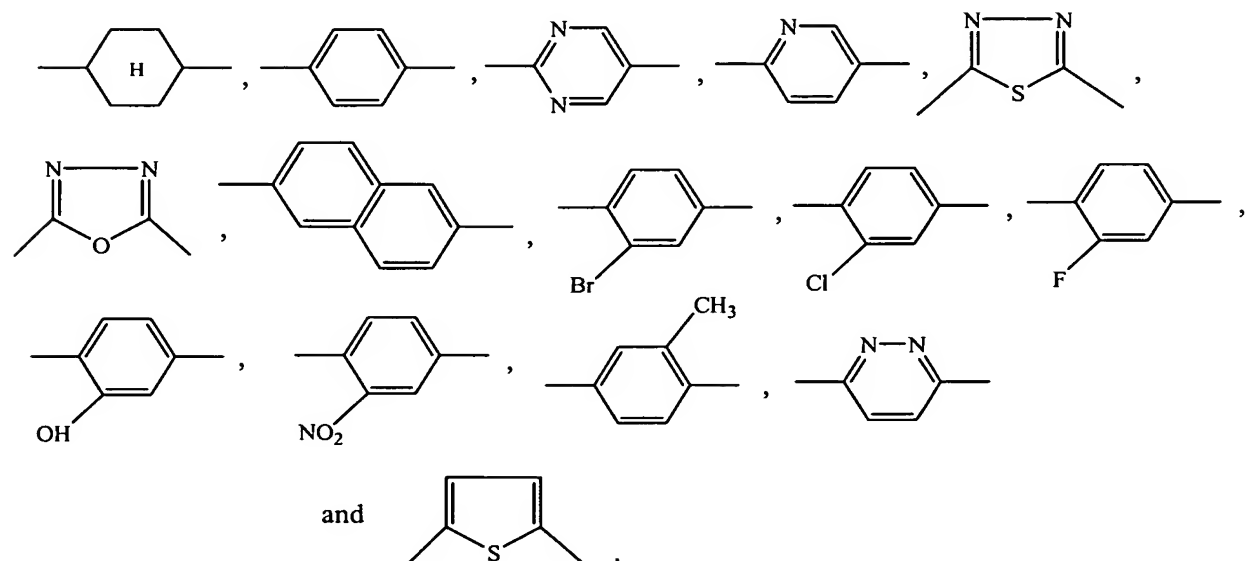
Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A method of preparing a film, comprising
polymerizing the ~~The use of a~~ composition as claimed in claim 8 ~~for the production of films.~~

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A film ~~which has been produced~~ from the using a
composition as claimed in claim 8.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A method of preparing a pigment, comprising
polymerizing the ~~The use of a~~ composition, as claimed in claim 8, within the interspace of a
mesh ~~for the preparation of pigments.~~

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A pigment ~~which has been prepared~~ from the using a
composition as claimed in claim 8.

Claim 19 (New): A compound as claimed in claim 3, wherein T is selected from the
group consisting of:



Claim 20 (New): The compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein, in the groups R^1 and R^2 , m is, in each case, 0; Y^3 is a single chemical bond; and Y^4 corresponds to -O-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-O- or -(R)N-CO-O-; and wherein the variable Y^4 for group R^1 may be identical to, or different from, the variable Y^4 for group R^2 .